



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 17, 2015

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors,
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I am writing to nominate Louis Fox to serve on the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors as a representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts pursuant to Section 54.501 of the Federal Communications Commission's rules.

Mr. Fox has more than 30 years of experience working on telecommunications issues for education in the United States, Africa, and Asia. He is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC), and he has served in this capacity for over three and a half years. Mr. Fox's fiscal and administrative responsibilities at CENIC, which has a budget of \$75 million, provide him with skills and insights that will contribute to his being an effective board member.

By way of background, CENIC connects California to the world—advancing education and research statewide by providing the world-class network essential for innovation, collaboration, and economic growth. This nonprofit organization operates the California Research and Education Network, a high-capacity network designed to meet the unique requirements of over 20 million users at 10,000 institutions, including the vast majority of kindergarten through post-secondary students together with educators, researchers, and other vital public-serving institutions. CENIC's Charter Associates are part of the world's largest education system; they include California K–12 schools, California community colleges, the California State University system, California's public libraries, the University of California system, Stanford, Caltech, and the University of Southern California.

For the past 10 years, CENIC has successfully managed one of the largest E-rate consortiums in the United States on behalf of California's K–12 schools. The E-rate program, coupled with the California Teleconnect Fund (California's version of the E-Rate program), has been instrumental in bringing high-speed broadband to California's K–12 schools. California also recognizes the importance of high-speed broadband for its students, and Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and the California State Legislature provided

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
August 17, 2015
Page 2

\$26.7 million last year and are providing another \$50 million this year to the California Department of Education to address the last-mile issue for those remaining unserved and underserved schools. CENIC, under Mr. Fox's stewardship, has been the critical partner in ensuring the success of this activity.

In addition, under Mr. Fox's leadership, California's public libraries have joined as the sixth segment of CENIC. Adding 1,200 public libraries to the CENIC network helped enhance their ability to share resources and will enable our libraries to play a critical role in the state's broad education ecosystem, something that would not have been possible without Mr. Fox's leadership. CENIC will also ensure that California's public libraries take full advantage of federal E-rate subsidies.

Prior to his position with CENIC, Mr. Fox worked nationally in similar roles, including conceiving of and leading the Internet2 K20 Initiative for over a decade, which was the precursor to United States Unified Community Anchor Network and allowed him to work with and help establish education networks in 45 states, working with over 60,000 education institutions. Mr. Fox served for nearly three decades as a faculty member, researcher, and administrator at the University of Washington and Duke University.

I believe that Mr. Fox has a valuable global and local perspective that would be an asset to the USAC Board of Directors representing schools. Should you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact Cindy Kazanis, Director, Analysis, Measurement and Accountability Reporting Division, by phone at 916-323-5007 or by e-mail at ckazanis@cde.ca.gov. A copy of Mr. Fox's professional biography is attached for your reference and review.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

/s/

Tom Torlakson

TT:ck
Attachment